Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A bi-directional tensioning device for tensioning an anchoring line and a threadable line comprising:

i) two spaced parallel plate members;

ii) a first support surface interconnecting the two spaced parallel plate members;

~~ii)~~ iii) a rotatable drive element mounted between the plate members;

~~iii)~~ iv) at least one ratchet wheel integrally connected to the rotatable drive element, wherein the ratchet wheel includes directionally oriented notches;

~~iv)~~ v) a pivot lever mounted on the drive element;

~~v)~~ vi) a drive part attached to the pivot lever;

~~vi)~~ vii) a blocking mechanism operationally coupled to the plate members, ~~wherein~~ the blocking mechanism includes a blocking pawl~~, a support surface interconnecting the plate members,~~ and a first spring mounted on the first support surface, wherein the first spring braces the blocking pawl into blocking engagement with the ratchet wheel;

~~vii)~~ viii) a first and second anchoring line attachment means ~~interconnecting~~ extending between the parallel plate members at remote ends of the device, wherein the anchor line ~~may be~~ is configured to removeably attach ~~attached~~ to either anchoring line attachment means; and

~~viii)~~ ix) a first ~~and second~~ guide means serving to aid in winding the threadable line, the first guide means ~~interconnects~~ extending between the two parallel ~~plates~~ plate members and ~~is~~ being spaced between the first anchoring line attachment means and ~~next to~~ the first support surface ~~of the blocking mechanism and guides~~, the first guide means being configured to guide the threadable line under the first anchoring line attachment means and over the first guide means and over the blocking ~~mechanism,~~ mechanism when the anchoring line is attached to the second anchoring line attachment means;

x) a second guide means serving to aid in winding the threadable line, the second guide means ~~includes~~ including a second support surface ~~interconnecting~~ extending between the

parallel plate members and ~~is~~ being spaced between the second anchoring line attachment means and the first guide means ~~rotatable drive element~~, the second guide means being configured to guide the threadable line under the second anchoring line attachment means and over the second guide means when the anchoring line is attached to the first anchoring line attachment means.

18. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the blocking pawl is of slider-like construction.

19-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein a cam of each directionally oriented notch on the ratchet wheel is remote from the first end of the device.

25. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein a cam of each directionally oriented notch on the ratchet wheel is remote from the second end of the device.

26. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive part is mounted slidably counter to the action of a second spring.

27. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 26, wherein the second spring is a torsion spring.

28. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive part has been lengthened in order to accommodate winding a greater length of the threadable line.

29. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive part is provided with a handle by means of which the drive part may be actuated.

30. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 17, wherein the drive part includes a control cam serving to transfer the blocking mechanism associated with the ratchet wheel into an inoperative position.

31-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A bi-directional tensioning device for tensioning an anchoring line and a threadable line comprising:

i) two spaced parallel plate members;

ii) a first support surface extending between the two spaced parallel plate members;

~~ii)~~ iii) a rotatable drive element mounted between the plate members;

~~iii)~~ vi) at least one ratchet wheel integrally connected to the rotatable drive element, ~~wherein~~ the ratchet wheel ~~includes~~ including directionally oriented notches;

~~vi)~~ v) a pivot lever mounted on the drive element~~, the pivot level including a control cam~~;

~~v)~~ vi) a drive pawl slidably attached to the pivot lever, the drive pawl including a handle;

~~vi)~~ vii) a blocking mechanism operationally coupled to the plate members, ~~wherein~~ the blocking mechanism ~~includes~~ including a blocking pawl, a handle attached to the blocking pawl, ~~a support surface interconnecting the plate members,~~ and a spring mounted on the first support surface, the blocking pawl extending along a plane, the handle including arms oriented to extend out of the plane of the blocking pawl to enable the handle to extend over the threadable line, the spring bracing the blocking pawl into blocking engagement with the ratchet wheel, the handle of the blocking pawl being configured to enable a user to transfer the blocking pawl into an inoperative position to enable passage of one directionally oriented notch of the ratchet wheel~~, the control cam of the pivot lever configured to transfer the blocking mechanism from an operative position to an inoperative position to enable passage of multiple directionally oriented notches~~;

viii) first and second anchoring line attachment members ~~interconnecting~~ extending between the parallel plate members at remote ends of the device, ~~wherein~~ the ~~anchor~~ first and

second anchoring line attachment members ~~may~~ being configured to enable the anchoring line to be removably attached to either of the anchoring line attachment ~~means; and~~ members;

ix) a first ~~and second~~ guide means serving to aid in winding the threadable line, the first guide means extending between the two parallel plates and being spaced between the first anchoring line attachment member and the first support surface, the first guide means being configured to guide the threadable line under the first anchoring line attachment member and over the first guide means and over the blocking pawl when the anchoring line is attached to the second anchoring line attachment member; and

x) a second guide means serving to aid in winding the threadable line, the second guide means including a second support surface extending between the parallel plate members and being spaced between the second anchoring line attachment member and the first guide means, the second guide means being configured to guide the threadable line under the second anchoring line attachment member and over the second guide means when the anchoring line is attached to the first anchoring line attachment member.

35. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 34, wherein the blocking pawl is of slider-like construction.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 34, wherein the first guide means includes a gradient support surface.

39. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 34, wherein the first guide means includes a bolt.

40. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 34, wherein the drive pawl has been lengthened in order to accommodate winding a greater length of the threadable line.

41. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 34, wherein the cam of each directionally oriented notch on the ratchet wheel is remote from the first anchoring line attachment means.

42. (Previously Presented) The bi-directional tensioning device as described in claim 34, wherein the drive part includes a control cam serving to transfer the blocking mechanism associated with the ratchet wheel into an inoperative position.